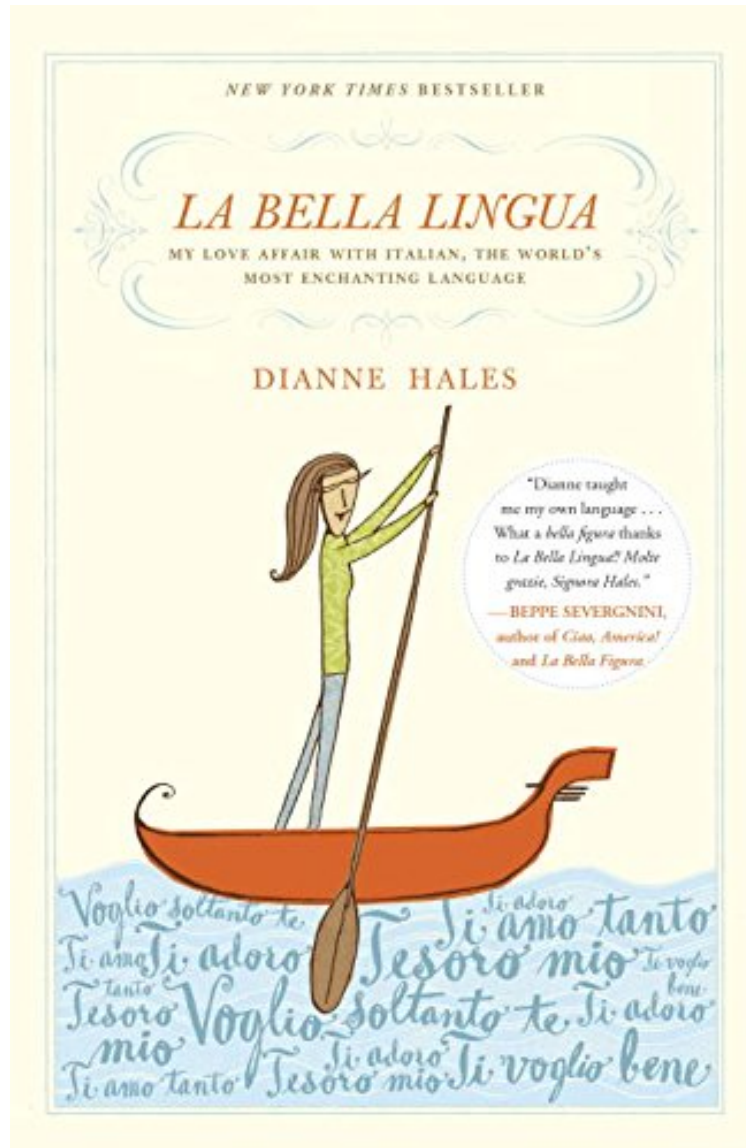


(Free) La Bella Lingua: My Love Affair with Italian, the World's Most Enchanting Language

# La Bella Lingua: My Love Affair with Italian, the World's Most Enchanting Language

Dianne Hales

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#95340 in Books Dianne Hales 2010-04-20 2010-04-20 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .75 x 5.20l, .52 #File Name: 0767927702336 pages La Bella Lingua My Love Affair with Italian the World's Most Enchanting Language | File size: 79.Mb

**Dianne Hales : La Bella Lingua: My Love Affair with Italian, the World's Most Enchanting Language** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised La Bella Lingua: My Love Affair with Italian, the World's Most Enchanting Language:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An outsider's fascinating attempt to crawl inside the Italian language  
By Cathryn Wellner  
Although the book took a while to sink its hooks into me, it succeeded. I had expected a more personal, less historical take on the always fascinating process of diving into another culture. What I got was a meandering path to becoming culturally literate, which can only happen when one has mastered a language. I ended up thoroughly enjoying the book and thinking how much fun it would be to read a similar book on acquiring English. The outsider's perspective is never completely accurate, but it allows us to see our own culture with new eyes. I would be interested to know if Italians reading the book enjoyed it as much as I did.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring, entertaining and educational.  
By Donna DI  
I read this book to prepare for my first trip to Italy. I never had a chance to read it before I got there though. Jetlagged I picked it up for the first time in Milan and read it all the way on the train to Venice and then to Florence. By the time I got to Florence, I realized how uneducated I was about the history and people of Italy. This book made me appreciate the culture and the language. My 17-year-old daughter, who is studying in Sicily, loved it too. It has inspired me to continue my studies and to return again. This is one book I know I'll read for at least a second time.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A continuation of my love affair with Italy.  
By Janet Simcic  
La Bella Lingua is almost my story. I couldn't put the book down and I have re read it many times and use it as a reference book. My brand for myself is...I am genetically programmed to love everything Italian. I fell in love with Italy the moment I looked into my grandfather's eyes at the age of three months. My first novel takes place in Rome. La Bella Lingua has inspired me to never stop learning the language. The Man at the Caffè Farnese  
If you love Italy, you will love this book. If you love the rhythm of the most beautiful language on earth, you will love this book. If you desire to learn about the customs and quirks of Italy, buy this book. It is beautifully written and fun. To enrich yourself even more, follow her blog!  
Janet Simcic, Author: The Man at the Caffè Farnese.

“Italians say that someone who acquires a new language ‘possesses’ it. In my case, Italian possesses me. With Italian racing like blood through my veins, I do indeed see with different eyes, hear with different ears, and drink in the world with all my senses...”  
A celebration of the language and culture of Italy, *La Bella Lingua* is the story of how a language shaped a nation, told against the backdrop of one woman’s personal quest to speak fluent Italian. For anyone who has been to Italy, the fantasy of living the Italian life is powerfully seductive. But to truly become Italian, one must learn the language. This is how Dianne Hales began her journey. In *La Bella Lingua*, she brings the story of her decades-long experience with the “the world’s most loved and lovable language” together with explorations of Italy’s history, literature, art, music, movies, lifestyle, and food in a true opera amorosa—a labor of her love of Italy. Throughout her first excursion in Italy—with “non parlo Italiano” as her only Italian phrase—Dianne delighted in the beauty of what she saw but craved comprehension of what she heard. And so she chose to inhabit the language. Over more than twenty-five years she has studied Italian in every way possible: through Berlitz, books, CDs, podcasts, private tutorials and conversation groups, and, most importantly, large blocks of time in Italy. In the process she found that Italian became not just a passion and a pleasure, but a passport into Italy’s *storia* and its very soul. She offers charming insights into what makes Italian the most emotionally expressive of languages, from how the “pronto” (“Ready!”) Italians say when they answer the telephone conveys a sense of something coming alive, to how even ordinary things such as a towel (*asciugamano*) or handkerchief (*fazzoletto*) sound better in Italian. She invites readers to join her as she traces the evolution of Italian in the zesty graffiti on the walls of Pompeii, in Dante’s incandescent cantos, and in Boccaccio’s bawdy *Decameron*. She portrays how social graces remain woven into the fabric of Italian: even the chipper “ciao,” which does double duty as “hi” and “bye,” reflects centuries of *bella figura*. And she exalts the glories of Italy’s food and its rich and often uproarious gastronomic language: Italians deftly describe someone uptight as a *baccala* (dried cod), a busybody who noses into everything as a *prezzemolo* (parsley), a worthless or banal movie as a *polpettone* (large meatball). Like Dianne, readers of *La Bella Lingua* will find themselves *innamorata*, enchanted, by Italian, fascinated by its saga, tantalized by its adventures, addicted to its sound, and ever eager to spend more time in its company.

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**Exclusive: A QA with Dianne Hales**

**Question: Why did you decide to write a book on Italian?** Dianne Hales: As a journalist, I know a great story when I see one—and the story of how Italian became the world's most enchanting language has everything: adventure, drama, passion, beautiful women, gallant heroes, unscrupulous scoundrels—not to mention glorious music and fabulous food.

**Question: Whom did you write this book for?** Dianne Hales: People who enjoy Italian food, music, art, film, travel and traditions. If you love Italy, you'll love learning about its language. If you come from an Italian family, you'll discover more about your heritage. If you're studying Italian, you'll find a new perspective that takes you beyond vocabulary and grammar. If you're traveling to Italy, you'll appreciate more about the people you meet and the places you visit. And if you're an armchair adventurer—well, buckle your seat belt!

**Question: Why and when did you start studying Italian?** Dianne Hales: I decided to study Italian more than twenty years ago so I could communicate with the friendly people we met on our travels in Italy. My goal was just to understand and be understood. However, the more Italian I learned, the more I wanted to know about Italian—where it came from, how it evolved, why it's so musical and vibrant. I had so much fun in Italian classes and conversation groups that I didn't want to stop my Italian education—and I never have.

**Question: How did you go about researching *La Bella Lingua*?** Dianne Hales: I used all the skills I honed in decades as a journalist and textbook author. I took classes in Italian language, history and culture both in the U.S. and in Italy. I worked very closely with a wonderful Italian tutor in San Francisco. In Italy I went to the great citadels of Italian, such as L'Accademia della Crusca and the Società Dante Alighieri, to interview leading linguists and scholars. But my greatest resources turned out to be the Italian people, who have deep pride in their mother tongue and infinite patience with those who try to master it. (Photo © Robert Hales)

From *Publishers Weekly* In this charming love letter to the language and culture of Italy, journalist Hales recounts her inebriation with Italian's sounds and her lovesickness over its phrases. Enamored of this lovely and lovable language, Hales immerses herself in Italian culture on numerous trips to Italy in her attempt to live Italian. She comes to think of Italian as a lovable rascal, a clever, twinkle-eyed scamp that you can't resist even when it plays you for a fool. Hales regales us with the mysteries of the language, such as when a color becomes more than hue. She tells us that yellow, for example, refers to a mystery because thrillers traditionally had yellow covers. In her rapture over the language, she also swoons over Italian literature (from Dante to Manzoni), opera (Verdi and Puccini) and cinema (Marcello Mastroianni and Fellini) as she rehearses the many ways in which the language has seductively slipped into Western culture and consciousness. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"A praiseworthy feature of *La Bella Lingua* is the way Hales peppers her narrative with hundreds of Italian words, idioms, and figures of speech—all chosen with gusto and brio and clearly translated into English—to introduce readers to the sonic and semantic seraglio that is the Italian language. A separate chapter on 'Irreverent Italian' highlights la parolaccia, the earthy lexicon of invective and jocular sensuality that contemporary Italians imbibe with their mother's milk but foreign students of Italian rarely get to savor." —Peter D'Epiro and Mary Desmond Pinkowish, authors of *Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World*

"Dianne Hales is just about pitch perfect as she weaves the engaging story of her innamoramento with Italian, hitting the high notes of Italian culture...a lovely, touching tribute to the many fine civilizing gifts that Italy has shared with the world. Any smart traveler to Italy would want to read *La Bella Lingua*. It's not only readable and engaging but informative about things not easily found in guidebooks and common tourist materials." —Julia Conaway Bondanella Peter Bondanella, authors and editors of *The Italian Renaissance Reader*, *Italian Cinema*, and the *Cassell Dictionary of Italian Literature*

"An impassioned student, Dianne Hales takes us along on her delightful pilgrimage to the speaking heart of Italy. The rhythmic beat she comes to feel and love teaches her how to live, in beautiful and idiomatic Italian, 'a language as rich in flavors and varieties as Italian cooking.' The reading pilgrim's reward is this delicious feast of a book, a strong mix of cultural and spoken treasure." —Susan Cahill, author of *Desiring Italy* and *The Smiles of Rome*

From the Hardcover edition.